NOW comics™

10 JUN

1.75
2.25 IN CANADA

THE ORIGINAL

ASTRO BOY

NO STEP!

INSPECTOR GUMSHOE, THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS - THAT LITTLE ROBOT OBVIOUSLY MEANT NO HARM! THIS IS TYPICAL OF THE ABUSE AND MISUNDERSTANDING THAT IS POLARIZING OUR SOCIETY!
OH, YEAH? WELL, WHAT ABOUT HIS CAR AND MY TOE, EH?!?
POST NO BILLS
I'M CERTAIN HIS INSURANCE AND A BAND-AID WILL SUFFICE—
INSPECTOR, DR. ELEFUN— A WHOLE HEARD OF BATTLE-ROBS HAVE GONE BERSERK AND ARE HEADING FOR THE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE!
WHAT'D I TELL YOU? YOU CAN'T TRUST 'BOTS!
ABSURD! THERE'S A LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR - I'M SURE!
YEAH, RIGHT!
VOOM!

RRRRR—
WELL SPUD, THIS IS ANOTHER FINE MESS YOU'VE GOTTEN US INTO!!
SORRY, BOSS! IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN...
ARGH!
SEACH—
PRATT '88

THAT'S TRUE— 'CAUSE WE'RE BOTH GONNA BE *DEAD* IN A MINUTE !!
HEY, MAYBE IF WE *REACTIVATE* THE LITTLE 'BOT HE COULD SAVE US!
SWELL IDEA, SPUD - BUT THERE IS A *PROBLEM* —

I, ER, *LOST* THE CONTROL BOX SOMEWHERE!
WELL, MAYBE IF WE CAN *REACTIVATE* IT *MANUALLY*— LESSEE, WHAT'S *THIS* DO?

WOW, THIS IS *NEAT*! *EAT COHERENT LIGHT YOU BIG JERK!!*
ZZZAT!

WHAT THE— ?
OH, DRAT! I FORGOT WE INSTALLED "BLACK HOLE GENERATORS" IN THESE BABIES— THEY *ABSORB* HIGH DENSITY LIGHT WAVES...

WHAT IF... WHAT IF WE *REVERSE* THE POLARITY IN HIS MAINFRAME— WON'T *THAT* UNSCRAMBLE HIS SIGNAL?
NAW, THAT ONLY WORKS IN COMIC BOOKS, SPUD!
WHAT DO'YATHINK *THIS* IS, A FEATURE FILM? I'M GONNA *TRY*—

EUREKA!!
CRINAP!
CRACKLE-POP!
WUMMMMMMMM

WELL DONE, OLD SOCK! REMIND ME TO BUY YOU A MILKBONE – IF WE SURVIVE!
OHHH! MY HEAD... WHERE AM I —
WHAT THE HECK — ?!
GULP!

WHUD!
WANG!
WHOOM!
WHAM!
KRANG!
KABLOOEY!!

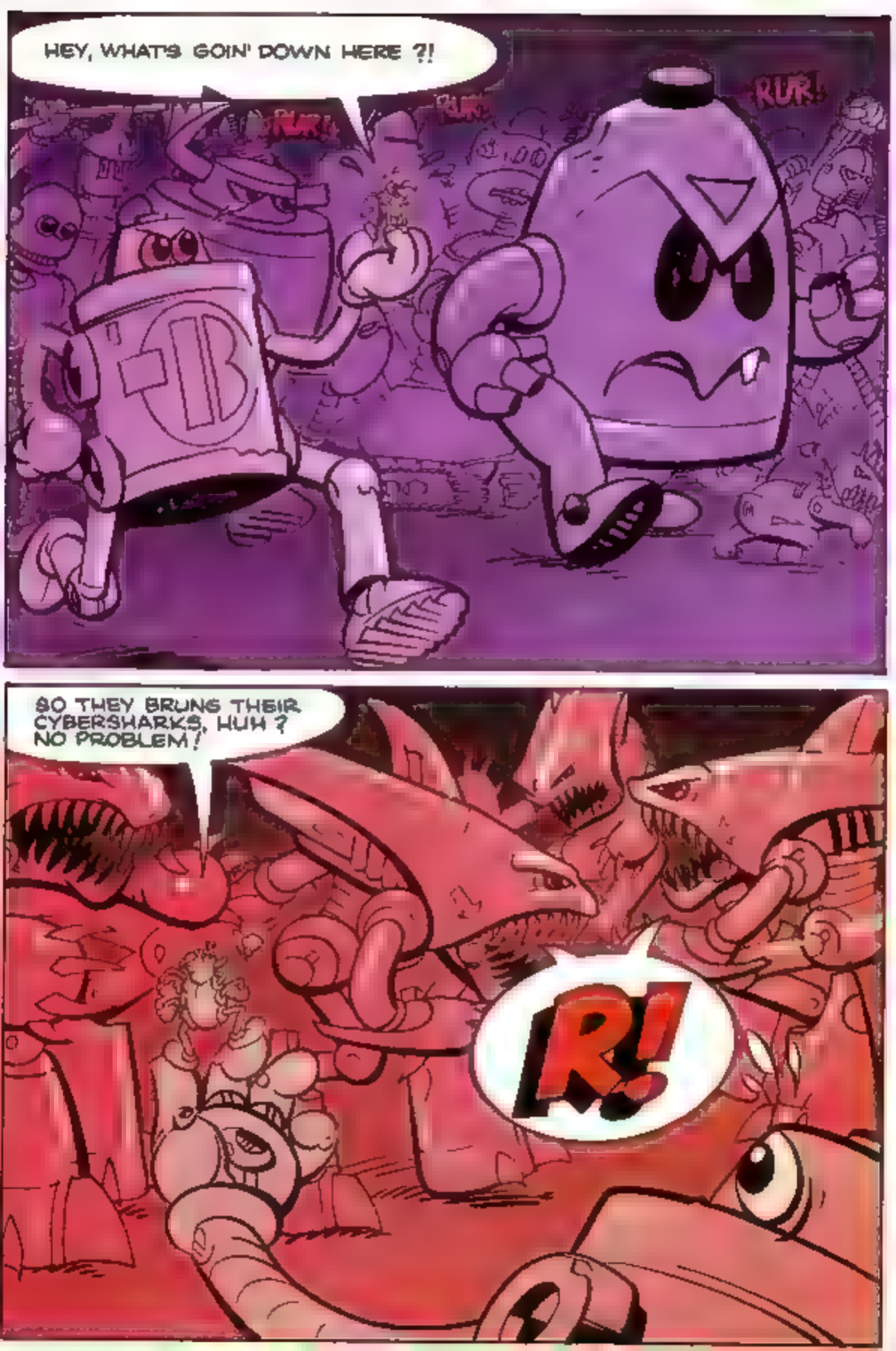
WHEN WILL THEY REALIZE THAT PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IS NO SOLUTION TO YOUR PROBLEMS!
BRAVO, I DO CONCUR!
WHO — ?
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. PROFESSOR EMERITUS I.Q. PLENTY, GENIUS AT LARGE... AND THIS IS MY FAITHFUL ASSOCIATE, SPUD.
HIYA, KID! REMEMBER ME?
WHY, YES. BACK AT THE INSTITUTE — SAY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
WELL, YA SEE, THAT CYBERSHARK AND HIS PALS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO DEMOLISH THE INSTITUTE WHEN —
SPUD!!

UH-OH !
ATTACK THE INSTITUTE — ! I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM !
WAITAMINIT !!
WOOOOSHH!!
SPUD, IF YOU LIVE — I'LL KILL YOU !!!
NO MILKBONE, HUH ?

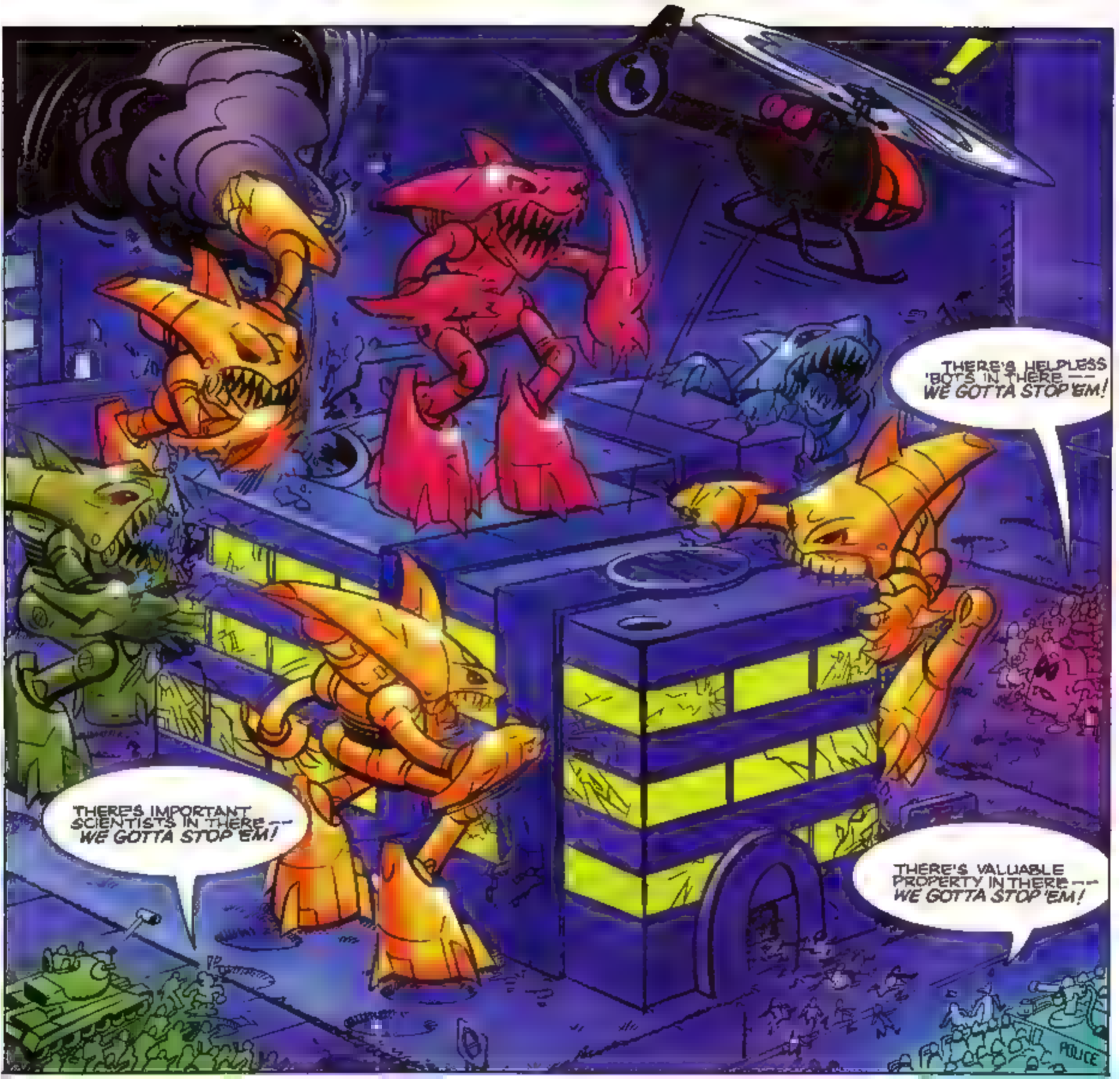
I DUNNO, BUGSY, ASTRO PROMISED US HE'D BE BACK SOON — !
RIGHT, AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT DA ROAD TO YOU-KNOW-WHERE IS PAVED WIT', DON'T WE ?
UH, YELLOW BRICKS ?
NAH, GOOD INTENTIONS, YAH WEENIE ! AN' DAT'S ALL WE EVER GOT, AIN'T IT ?! WELL, DA TIME HAS COME TA TAKE OUR PIECE OF DA PIE, BOYS !
YEAH !
OKAY !
TEN-FOUR !
BUT, BUT YOU DON'T REALLY THINK ASTRO HAS ... SOLD OUT ?
I IS AFFRAID DAT'S MY INESCAPABOBBLE CONCLUSION, BOB !
AWRIGHT GANG — BACK TO THE INSTITUTE !
RUR!
RUR!
RUR!

THEY'RE WHAT ?!... HOW THE DEVIL?... YES, YES!... ON THEIR WAY HERE ?!
RIGHT, CALL OUT OUR BOYS — KEEP THE OTHER SERVICES INCLUDING THE COAST GUARD AND THE RESERVES ON FULL ALERT — WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS, BUT JUST IN CASE, THEY SHOULD BE READY TO GO! OH — AND CALL THE CITY'S SANITATION DEPARTMENT TOO .... YEAH, THERE'S GONNA BE A BIG MESS TO CLEAN UP AFTERWARDS!
GENERAL, WHAT IS IT ? WHAT'S HAPPENED ?!
THE 'BOTS HAVE SOMEHOW TURNED OUR OWN CYBERSHARKS AGAINST US, TAMIL! THIS IS IT — NUCLEAR COMBAT TOE-TO-TOE WITH ROBOTKIND!
CHOKE! GOOD LORD!

AWRIGHT BOYS — WE'LL HIT 'EM HIGH AND WE'LL HIT 'EM LOW! WAIT FOR MY COMMAND... AND REMEMBER, IF YOU'RE KILLED IN COMBAT YOUR FOLKS'LL GET SOME GORGEOUS MEDALS TO REMEMBER YOU BY—!
OKAY, MEN — WE'RE GONNA MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER IF IT KILLS US — AND THEM!
BUT TRY NOT TO INFRINGE ON ANYONE'S CONSTITUTIONALLY GUARANTEED RIGHTS!


HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN HERE ?!
RUR!
RUR!
RUR!
SO THEY BRUNG THEIR CYBERSHARKS, HUH ? NO PROBLEM!
R!

WHAT THE HEY--? DA SHARKS ARE IGNORING US --
AND THEY'RE ATTACKING--
--THE INSTITUTE ?!?


THERE'S HELPLESS 'BOTS IN THERE -- WE GOTTA STOP 'EM!
THERE'S IMPORTANT SCIENTISTS IN THERE -- WE GOTTA STOP 'EM!
THERE'S VALUABLE PROPERTY IN THERE -- WE GOTTA STOP 'EM!
POLICE

OK, GANG, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
GRRRRRRRR!!
GNASH! GRIND!
!?
KA-RASH!
NICE WOIK, GUYS! WE OUGHTA GET AT LEAST A SAWBUCK PER KILO FOR THIS SCRAP!

LUMIERE, WHAT'S HAPPENING ?!
WE'RE UNDER SIEGE BY INSANE BATTLEBOTS EVERY PERSON FOR THEMSELF !!
WHERE'S REBECCA ?!
WHO CARES ?! I'M ELSEWHERE, PAL !
REBECCA !!
ELMER, THANK HEAVEN ! LANCE LEFT ME TO FEND FOR MYSELF !
I'M AFRAID THIS IS CURTAINS FOR US, REBECCA ! I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'VE ALWAYS --
DON'T SAY IT— JUST HOLD ME TIGHT !
GOODBYE, RE --
WHAM!

WHAM!
POM!
POM!
POM!
POM!

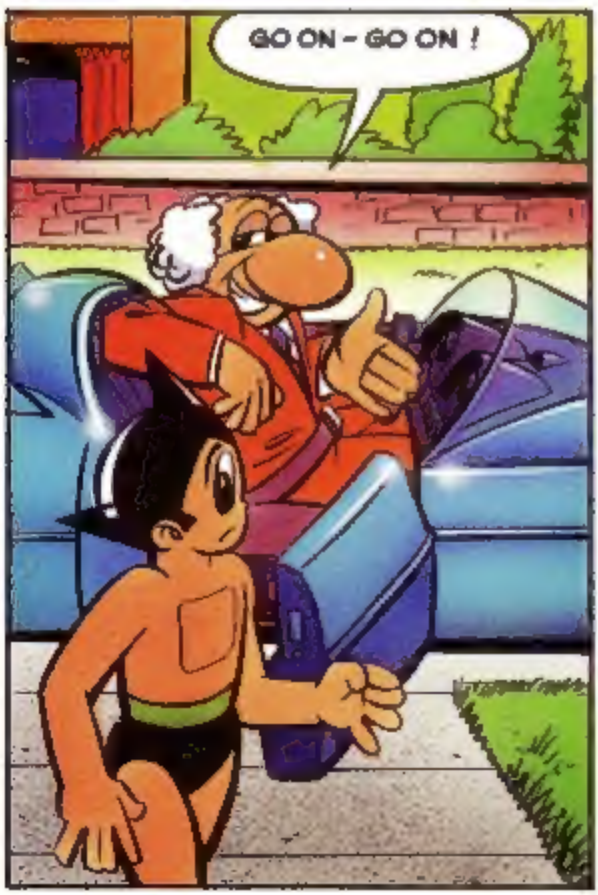
KER-
RANG!

WE DID IT!!
WE STOPPED 'EM!!
YES, BUT HOW DID WE DO IT?
BY CO-OPERATING IN THE FACE OF A COMMON ENEMY! WE MUST CONTINUE THAT CO-OPERATION TO FIGHT THE ENEMY OF FEAR AND PREJUDICE! WE CAN LIVE SIDE BY SIDE AS EQUALS!
YEAH,...
HE'S RIGHT,...
WE CAN DO IT,...
SURE,...
PARTAY!
I HATE TO ADMIT IT BUT THE LITTLE TWERP IS RIGHT—!
BUT I'M STILL GONNA MAKE HIM WORK FOR US!!
BAH, I STILL TRUST 'EM AS FAR AS I CAN THROW 'EM—AND MOST OF 'EM I CAN'T EVEN LIFT!!

SOME WEEKS LATER...
...THEREFORE IT GIVES ME THE UTMOST PLEASURE TO BESTOW, ALBEIT SOMEWHAT BELATEDLY, NONETHELESS WITH MAGNANIMITY AND GREAT UH, UM... ER, WELL YES, WELL WHATEVER... THE DECLARATION OF ROBORIGHTS WHICH WILL ENTITLE OUR MECHANICAL COUNTERPARTS TRUE FREEDOM WITHIN OUR SOCIAL STRUCTURE, MINDFUL THAT THEY ARE BOUND BY THE SAME CONVENTIONS THAT GOVERN US ALL, AND FURTHERMORE BLAH BLAH BLAH, BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH... ETC!
WHAT'S WRONG, MY BOY? THIS IS A MONUMENTOUS OCCASION FOR ROBOTS AND HUMANS ALIKE... AND YOU ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE!
SIGH
I KNOW... BUT SOMEHOW I STILL FEEL EMPTY... SOMETHING IMPORTANT IS MISSING FROM MY EXISTANCE.
I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN... HARUMPH, YES, WELL, WE WERE GOING TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE FESTIVITIES BUT... COME WITH ME!

HERE WE ARE . . .
?

BUT WHAT – ?


GO ON – GO ON !

WELCOME HOME, SON !
!?!
NEXT ISSUE !!
BIGGER, BETTER
AND EXTRA FUN !!